



**SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 25, 2004
Minutes**

Members in attendance:

Roger Cooper
Wally Hill
Rick Smith
Mike Martin
Andrea Holman
Al Stimac
Cindy Gennell
Wiley Dykes

Staff in attendance:

Mark Lichtenheld
Cindy Matheny
Jeff Hayes

Guests:

Stan Stevens
Hugh Harling
Sue Wright Allen
Brenda Sosebee

Mr. Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and asked the committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Stimac and approved unanimously.

Reports:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee/Metroplan – no report

Natural Lands – no report

Florida National Scenic Trail – Mr. Dykes reported that plans are under way to re-route the FNST to the northwest from a location south of the Econ River, which would diverge from the Flagler Trail.

Bike issues – no report

Development Review Committee – no report

Coordination/Planning – Ms. Matheny stated that the Special Project Team's Trails Priority Matrix had been put on hold, possibly for six months. Ms. Gennell stated that she would like the committee to receive updates on the process.

Office of Greenways and Trails – Mr. Lichtenheld stated that OGT is purchasing a 45 mile long trail section in Volusia County.

Design/Construction – Mr. Lichtenheld said that the Snow Hill Trailhead is open for use and signage is in place. A dedication for the trailhead will be held in April and the committee is invited to attend.

Ms. Sosebee, audience member, asked if signage could be placed on the trail to notify other types of users that horses may be on the trail. She stated that a friend had been told by residents in the vicinity of the trailhead that horses were no longer permitted on the Flagler Trail. Mr. Lichtenheld said he would look into the signage issue.

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the beams had been put in place on the Winter Springs bridge and that the bridge was on schedule for a November opening. He described the separation of paths across the bridge for equestrians and hikers.

Mr. Lichtenheld said that the Markham Trailhead should be finished over the summer and that it will have water and restrooms.

He further reported that engineering for the Cross-Seminole Trail North from Wade St to Gardenia was complete, and that the section from Mikler Rd to Orange County was going out for construction bids, as is the Econ River bridge.

Ms. Gennell stated that she had spoken with Sanford and Central Florida Zoo officials about the need for new committee members, and plans to meet with Longwood officials soon.

Old Business:

Mr. Lichtenheld asked the committee members to check the roster distributed at the meeting and mark in needed updates to their information.

Horseshoe Village – (tabled from February 26 meeting).

Mr. Lichtenheld read the minutes from the June and August, 2002, committee meetings, when Horseshoe Village was previously discussed. Ms. Holman asked if a motion had been made at that time. Mr. Lichtenheld replied that a motion was not in the record.

Mr. Cooper introduced Stan Stevens, resident of Chuluota. Mr. Stevens submitted letters from Walter Cutler, Lake Pickett Downs management company, and the Southeast Seminole Voters Association in opposition to the proposed trail right-of-way swap at Horseshoe Village. He presented a 1999 sketch proposing the southern parcel for an assisted-living facility and/or church school and stated that the zoning on the site was now Rural. He stated that the swap would give frontage on CR 419 and a chance for the parcel to become commercial. Mr. Stevens stated that the existing trees in the current trail corridor would provide sufficient buffer from CR 419 for trail users, and that equestrians from Riverwoods cross directly to the Oleander right-of-way to reach the trail.

Mr. Harling, representing the Rose family, owners of the site, showed the current configuration of the trail. He stated that Mr. Rose had wanted vehicles to approach Horseshoe Village from the front, and equestrians from the rear, to separate the two uses. Mr. Harling said that the possible church school or assisted living facility on the south parcel would be done as a conditional use. He described the proposed re-route of the trail and where retention for Horseshoe Village will be placed. He said the swap would not affect the chances for the owners to gain approval for the church school or assisted-living facility on the site.

Mr. Smith asked if CR 419 was to be four-laned.

Mr. Harling replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Hill made a motion to uphold the committee's previous consensus supporting the trail swap, seconded by Mr. Cooper for discussion.

Ms. Holman stated she would like the letters submitted by Mr. Stevens to be read, and asked staff if any emails or phone calls on this issue had been received.

Ms. Matheny stated that she had received several phone calls but had informed the callers that phoned-in comments could not be accepted.

Ms. Holman and Mr. Martin read the referenced letters aloud to the committee.

Ms. Matheny stated that the applicant is still required to obtain state approval for the swap.

Mr. Hill stated that both possible corridors are high and dry. He said that neighbors of planned trails might be NIMBYs (Not in My Back Yard) at first, then learn the benefits, and pluses to property values. He would rather the trail be away from traffic.

Ms. Holman asked for staff opinion.

Ms. Matheny stated that she and Mr. Lichtenheld felt that there were advantages and disadvantages to both routes and did not support either route over the other. She stated that their supervisor, Mr. Van Pelt, felt that the proposed swap would provide a better experience for trail users.

Ms. Holman said that trail users were utilizing Oleader Street, which could be vacated as part of the Horseshoe Village project. She felt that the swap would not save trail users from a long distance along CR 419 and would disrupt more trees along a longer route. She stated that the property would become more valuable with Cr 419 frontage and was now zoned for 1 home per five acres. Ms. Holman stated that the south piece is not zoned commercial so there are no approved driveway cuts that would be avoided by the swap.

Ms. Gennell stated that the purview of the committee does not extend into zoning issues. They are to consider the safety, security, and feasibility of the trails, and that CR 419 will only get busier.

Ms. Holman stated that she did not want the action of the committee on this item to become inadvertent ammo for anyone to use.

Ms. Matheny stated that their action would likely be raised at the County Commission final zoning hearing.

Mr. Smith stated that the safety of being away from traffic is a big plus but that the possible Oleander St vacate would cut off some users from easy trail access and that the distance would not be much of a gain.

Mr. Cooper called for a vote. The vote was 4 in favor of upholding the previous recommendation, and 4 against. Ms. Gennell stated that the vote represented a lack of consensus for or against.

Ms. Holman stated that she would like the committee to have more field trips to sites such as these.

Ms. Gennell left the meeting at this time.

New Business:

Ms. Sue Wright Allen, resident of Osceola Rd, asked to speak to the committee. She stated that she and her neighbors no longer have a route to ride their horses to the Flagler Trail corridor. When Osceola Rd was paved, the residents were promised a path along the roadway, but the path has since been converted into deeper ditches. She showed photographs of the roadway conditions and traffic. Ms. Allen said that she had approached Commissioner McLain to try to get equestrian access across the County's landfill property to reach the trail. She said that there is currently no place to park horse trailers along the trail corridor. She stated that she would permit her neighbors to cross her property to reach the landfill parcel if access could be obtained.

Mr. Stimac made a motion for the committee chairman to send a letter to the County Commission asking that they look into the feasibility of the equestrian trail across the landfill property. Seconded by Mr. Smith, passed unanimously.

Grant application – Ms. Matheny stated that staff are preparing an application to be submitted to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. The application would be to expand/relocated the existing sidewalk along Mellonville Avenue, upgrading it into a trail segment. It would join the eastern end of the Sanford Riverwalk which will be completed April 3. The segment would end at Sanford's Historic Stadium.

Ms. Holman asked about the condition of the corridor, primarily related to trees.

Ms. Matheny stated that there is adequate right-of-way for the trail construction to avoid the trees.

Mr. Martin made a motion to support staff application for the grant, seconded by Mr. Hill, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lichtenheld reminded the committee that their regular meetings are always on the fourth Thursday of the month, unless previously changed by the committee. He stated that the Snow Hill Trailhead dedication will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 19.

Mr. Stimac made a motion that the committee not hold their regularly scheduled April meeting because the County's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is to be held the same night. He stated his motion was contingent on staff notifying the committee if any urgent issues arise which would necessitate the committee's meeting on an alternate night. Motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and passed unanimously.

Mr. Stimac made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting:

Thursday, May 27, with time and location to be announced

**(Please check the trails website for updates or changes
www.seminolecountyfl.gov/trails)**